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SOURCE Pukhan T'okbo.UNDERGROUND ACTIVITIES IN NORTH KOREA

Hong Kon

Tight censorship of news from North Korea has led the people outside of North Korea to think that there is little anti-Communist activity there. In fact, anti-Communist activity has been continuous.

Taedong County Incident

Han Hyong-jun, a junior-high-school student in Namkwan Township, Taedong County, P'yongan Namdo quit the school to become an executive secretary of the township Democratic Party. While working for the party he began organizing students and young farmers into an Anti-Communist Youth Corps. Kim Chong-hyon, a student of the P'yongyang Agricultural College, has also been organizing anti-Communist underground organizations in that school. There were two similar organizations in and around P'yongyang, one covering the suburban area and the other within the city limits.

The anti-Communist youth members of these organizations had been preparing to distribute handbills on May Day 1950 calling for the downfall of Kim Il-song. Unfortunately their entire plans became known prematurely. Kim Chong-hyon managed to escape to the South but several others were arrested. Han remained free and later he was ordered to attend the political school in P'yong'ang. While there he kept corresponding with Namkwan junior-high students until the high school cell reported the activity to the GPU officers. Han was arrested along with 20 other underground workers on 17 September 1949. A few of the group managed to escape into South Korea.

Korea Unification Torch Corps Incident

The Unification Torch Corps (UTC) was organized by Song Ye-jun of Shin-jong Township, Kangso County, P'yongan Namdo in February 1947. On 14 June 1947, the Kangso County Chosun Democratic Party opened its annual convention, and the UTC taking the advantage of the occasion held its first secret meeting, because the

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members of this underground group are also members of the Chosun Democratic Party, as well as being leading Christians. At its first meeting the UTC established its headquarters in Kangso City and adopted the corps organization on a permanent basis. It was also decided that a county executive committee would consist of seven members; a township committee, five members; and a village committee, three members. It was further decided that every member of the corps would bring in three new members. The corps was to have cells, a counterpart of the Communist cells, in every possible place, including high schools.

In November 1947, the corps held another secret meeting, at which time it was decided to expand to other neighboring counties such as Chunghwa, Kangdong, and Taedong counties, including the City of P'yongyang. During another secret session in December 1948, the corps members elected as director, Kim Ki-hu, age 60, who was educated in the US and is an elder of the Presbyterian Church. Also, at this meeting plans were made to send two members of the UTC to South Korea to discuss with national defense officials the question of abolishing the 38th parallel boundary. The UTC sent two of its members to South Korea on 18 April 1949 for such a discussion. They returned to North Korea on 8 May 1949. After hearing their reports the UTC decided to organize UTC cells among the People's Army and the railroad workers. On 14 June 1949, the UTC dispatched two more agents to South Korea. Before they returned to the North, scores of the UTC members including the director had been arrested. However, 44 members entered South Korea safely.

Although its director has been sentenced to 20 years in prison, the UTC is continuing to grow. It has more than 3,000 cell members throughout North Korea at present.

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